

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

1. (Currently Amended) A down-the-hole drill assembly having a reciprocating piston, an upper chamber for pressurized air to cause downward travel of the piston, a lower chamber for pressurized air to cause the piston to lift and a drill bit with an inner end, body and face wherein the inner end of the bit is closed and exhaust passages are provided from the upper and lower chambers past the inner end of the bit and through the body of the bit to exit through the bit face.

2. (Previously Presented) A drill assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the exhaust passages exit via at least one vent extending through the bit body from the bit face.

3. (Previously Presented) A drill assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the bit has openings extending transversely through the body of the bit into a blind bore extending from the bit face.

4. (Previously Presented) A drill assembly as claimed in claim 3 wherein a flushing air orifice extends through the closed inner end of the bit.

5. (Previously Presented) A drill bit for the down-the-hole drill assembly as defined in claim 1.